

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 8 and 9 are amended, and claims 15-17 are added. Support for the amendments is provided in the specification, for example, on page 17, lines 22-25, page 19, lines 8-15 and in Fig. 3B. Support for the added claims is provided in the specification, for example, on page 17, lines 22-25. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP-A-2002-283930 (hereinafter "JP930"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP930 teaches a structure, as shown in Figs. 9 and 10, for attaching a molding 41 to a concave portion 11 of a vehicle body 12,13 that requires the insertion of two elements into the concave portion, namely, a molding attaching clip 21 secured to the concave portion by adhesive double sided tape 27, and a molding attaching holder 31 that is secured to the molding attaching clip. JP930 discloses a positioning projection 25 extending from an upper surface of the molding attaching clip 21 that is received in a positioning recess 32c formed in the molding attaching holder 31.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a molding attaching structure comprising a molding which engages with a molding attaching clip comprising an elastically deformable guide portion, the guide portion including a curved portion and including a cantilever beam which has a tip end portion as a free end at a position above and away from the fixed portion. Independent claims 2 and 8 recite similar features. JP930 fails to teach a guide portion with all of the features positively recited in the independent claims. For example, the alleged guide portion in JP930 cannot reasonably be considered to include any structure corresponding to a cantilever beam which has a tip end portion as a free end at a position above and away from a fixed portion.

at least this reason, JP930 cannot reasonably be interpreted as having anticipated the respective independent claims.

Claim 1 further recites, among other features, a molding having a receiving groove having a longitudinal direction, the receiving groove being formed on a lower face of the projected portion and into which a guide portion of the molding attaching clip can enter, and a curved portion of the guide portion being configured to slidingly contact the bottom face of the receiving groove in the longitudinal direction. Independent claims 2 and 8 recite similar features.

The Office Action asserts that the positioning recess 32c of JP930 corresponds to the claimed receiving groove and that the positioning projection 25 corresponds to the claimed guide portion. However, JP930 cannot reasonably be interpreted as teaching a guide portion and a receiving groove having all of the features recited, respectively, in the independent claims at least because the positioning recess 32c of JP930 is adapted to the positioning projection 25 to prevent longitudinal dislocation of a molding attaching holder 31. Thus, the positioning projection 25 of JP930 is not configured to slidingly contact a bottom face of a positioning recess 32c in a longitudinal direction.

For at least the foregoing reasons, JP930 cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features positively recited in independent claims 1, 2 and 8. Further, claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9-14 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested by, JP930 for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP930 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP930 in view of Official Notice (hereinafter "Official Notice"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites wherein a thermosetting double-faced adhesive tape is further provided on a back face of the fixing portion.

Because the Official Notice is not applied in a manner that would overcome the above-identified shortfalls in the application of JP930 to the subject matter of independent claim 2, the combination of features recited in claim 5 is neither taught, nor would it have been suggested by, any combination of JP930 and Official Notice for at least the respective dependence of claim 5 on allowable base claim 2.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of applied references are respectfully requested.

Added claims 15-17 recite wherein the attaching clip is formed of a sheet metal member having resilience. Applicants' disclosure describes the attaching clip as being tolerant of the heating process described in page 20, lines 2-6. In contrast, JP930 teaches a molding attaching clip formed of synthetic resin, and fails to teach, or to have suggested, a molding attaching clip that is formed of a sheet metal member.

Accordingly, claims 15-17 are allowable over the combination of the applied references based on the respective dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as on the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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